

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figure 1, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 1/1

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Minor amendments have been made to independent Claims 19, 21, 22 and 24 to remove the reference to a prior claim.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 1-24 are now pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 7-24 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting by the Examiner as being unpatentable over claims 1-27 of prior U.S. Patent No. 10/898,514 to Santo.

Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer (along with the associated fee) which is believed to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321 to overcome the Examiner's rejection. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw his rejections based on obviousness-type double patenting.

DRAWINGS

A replacement drawing sheet is being submitted herewith that provides the decision operations within triangles, as per standard flowcharting nomenclature. No other substantive changes have been made to the figure.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER


The Examiner states that Claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, in view of the Terminal Disclaimer that is being submitted, it is believed that all of the pending claims are now in form for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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